

EVENING SALUTATION

In man's most dark, extremity
Oft succor dawns from heaven.
—Scott.

WONDER-WORKING SONG

Music hath charms to turn tough boys into normal happy ones. At least, that is the case in the experience of a social worker at Hull House in Chicago.

The members of the boys' club with which she has been working musical miracles come mostly from homes where they are beaten if they fail to turn in as much money as their parents demand from their paper-selling or other occupations in Chicago's streets. A good many of them were already members of gangs haunting basements, pool rooms and back rooms of stores. Bad temper, stealing, knife-slashing, were among their signs of "badness."

The believer in music rounded up 125 of these children and gave them a few simple music instructions. Then she set them to singing, first the popular and cheap jazz songs with which they were familiar. When they had loosened up a little, she taught them the quieter and sweeter songs, ballads and good though lively airs.

At first their singing was little better than yelling. Later they began to do very creditable chorus work. Some of them discovered a latent talent for singing. All of them enjoyed the song fests. And little by little there came character development, curbing of wilfulness and violence and the cheerful change from gangsters to members of a busy, constructive occupied club.

Too many persons leave singing to the good singers, when they ought to be cultivating their own appreciation of good music and giving themselves the happiness of joining in group singing as well as listening to it.

The biggest American problem at present is parking space.

THE BIG BARGE CANAL

When navigation of the New York barge canal opened the other day, 137 big barges left Albany for the Great Lakes, all loaded to the gunwales. There was coal for Canada, a whole fleet of steel barges loaded with sulphur for Cleveland, and cargoes of flaxseed, phosphates, copper and Porto Rican sugar. At the same time barge loads of wheat were starting out from Buffalo for the seaboard.

It will take many days such as this first one to pay for the canal, but all the same the signs are good. New York shippers are chartering every barge they can find that is adapted to use in the big canal, and tonnage suitable for wheat is in demand at Buffalo. The men with freight to ship have awakened to the advantage of water transportation, the railroads are busy with traffic of unprecedented volume and everyone should be happy.

There has been much criticism of the way in which the New York barge canal was built, and of the way in which the various state administrations have managed it, but all the same it has shown the nation what may be done by canalization in this generation. The United States is wasting more transportation facilities, in the shape of rivers and harbors that might be used, than any other land that calls itself civilized, and we pay for our waste dearly.

We can do without a lot of the things that went to the making of the New York state barge canal, but it is worth remembering that it works, and that there is room for a dozen or a hundred more like it within our borders.

The "Ford-for-President" movement may be exaggerated. A flivver always sounds as if it were going a mile a minute.

DESERTING SOUTHERN FARMS

Just as the South begins to feel the vigor of a big economic revival, its prosperity is threatened again by the migration of its negro labor. Negroes are moving north as they did during the war boom, and for the same reasons—higher wages, more personal freedom and the quest of adventure. Georgia, which has suffered most from this exodus, has lost almost one farm hand out of every seven during the past year.

It is the southern farms that suffer most; the industrial sections can hold their labor better because they are able to pay better wages than the farms. It is not likely that the migration can be stopped until the southern farmers, in common with the farmers of the whole country, are enabled to get their full share of national prosperity.

The North, of course, can use all that negro labor to advantage. The South, however, needs it more than the North does. And on the whole, it is probably better for the negroes themselves to remain in the South. There they are better adjusted climatically and temperamental. While they may make less money, they need less. Life on a plantation is far more healthful than life in a crowded negro quarter in a northern industrial city. And the southern whites probably understand the negro better and treat him with more real friendliness than do the northern whites.

The question seems to be whether joining the court means courting the league.

TEMPERAMENTAL NEW YORK

Light is shed on New York's business attitude by this statement, from a silk goods salesman who was formerly located there but now does business elsewhere by preference. He says:

"New York always is either too bullish or too blue—more often too blue. Just before I made my last trip from New York I was told that it would be a waste of money for me to take my samples out on the road. Every fellow in New York warned me to stay at home. But out I went. The first place I struck was Pittsburg. I did fine there. That was only a starter. I came back to New York with more business than I ever figured on getting.

"The funny part of it was that, when I got back to New York, I found the very man who warned me not to spend money on railroad fares eagerly placing orders. That's New York for you."

This view is confirmed by B. C. Forbes, a financial writer who aims to keep in touch with the whole country. He tells of finding, in his visits to many western and middle-western cities, that New York is generally accused of wild fluctuations and is always indulging in too violent ups or downs. In city after

city, he says, he has been told: "We're getting along nicely here. We're steadier than New York."

Thus, far from the metropolis setting the business pace for the rest of the country, it is the rest of the country which represents the actual business conditions and sets the pace for New York.

The average American now lives 55 years, or 15 years more than when the Civil War started, and by 1950 the span of life may be raised to 69 years. So predicts Dr. Haven Emerson of New York city. The gain has been largely by reducing the death rate among children. People who pass maturity still die at about the same age as they used to.

Railroad Valuations

San Bernardino Sun.

Out of the gathering at Chicago last week, presided over by Senator La Follette, is likely to grow one of the big questions of the next National political campaign. Shippers, particularly farmers, insist that freight rates are too high. Railroad managers declare that unless rates are higher, roads cannot pay dividends, and if they cannot pay dividends, they cannot get new money for extensions and improvements that only new capital can buy. Some figures are therefore of interest.

When the Interstate Commerce Commission made its last general valuation of the railroads of the country in 1914, directed by law to do so as the basis for rate making, the railroads of the United States were valued at \$13,900,000,000. With that as a basis, such changes as have come in the meantime have been added, and rates fixed accordingly. But except in times of unusual business, the railroads have not made big dividends. Some of them have, because of particularly fortunate territory served or because of unusually able management, or both, but the average of rail earnings has been lower than investors would be satisfied with in other lines soured by capital. The roads are therefore asking for higher rates while shippers are asking for lower rates, and the LaFollette conference had it that a request for higher rates would be such as to predicate an increase in railroad valuation of \$10,000,000,000. That is to say, the rates to be asked for will earn dividends on \$10,000,000,000 added valuation. Also, Senator La Follette declares, and here's where he stirs the very general interest, that these rates would increase the cost of living in the United States \$1,500,000,000, for "all of us."

Much of the Chicago conference was behind closed doors, and the public therefore has only what the conferees wished to give out. Whether, therefore, they took stock of the plan sponsored by Senator Brookhart, of Iowa, cannot be said. Brookhart, however, but his proposal is that the value of railroads for rate-making purposes shall be the market value of the stock, on the theory that the stock is worth "what it will bring," which it must be agreed is the quite general method of establishing values. It is objected to on the ground that conditions have forced down the value of some stocks, and that they do not fairly represent the reproduction cost of the properties.

The whole question of freight rates is almost sure to be an important and perhaps a spectacular feature of next year's Presidential campaign. Some paragrapher recently suggested that people are much more interested in the price of sugar than in the world court, and it might be that freight rates and the railroad question will shoulder the league of nations out of sight before November, 1924. There are indications that the matter is already of such importance that President Harding will devote some of his western speeches to it, possibly outlining an administration program.

Changing Guns For Paper

San Diego Union.

News that peace has come at last to Ireland seems almost incredible to the thousands of newspaper readers to whom the daily reports of bloodshed and disorder there have come to be a commonplace of the news. It appears, however, to be a fact. Leaders of the Republican forces have apparently ordered what amounts to surrender, and Free State authorities assert that the orders amount only to recognition of a defeat that has been actual for some time. "It is believed the Republicans now are likely to concentrate their efforts upon the election campaign," says yesterday's report.

Rifles, grenades and incendiary torches are, it seems, to be relegated to the ammunition dumps of the former guerrillas. If the line quoted above is borne out by coming events, it will mean simply the exchange of these weapons of bloodshed and force for the recognized weapons of popular rule—the ballot. It will mark another victory for what was once so scornfully symbolized as "a scrap of paper."

Scraps of paper are coming to rule the world, and the advance of constructive civilization can be pretty clearly traced by the widening realm that is dominated by these scraps of paper and the words upon them. The Republicans are giving up the word of a deity that has been actual for some time, and are taking up the new force—the force that finds expression in democracy and peace and reason.

The view which most Americans have of the rights and wrongs of the Irish question is a hazy conception, neither brought up-to-date by access to accumulating facts nor based upon the historical foundations of the long unrest. News of the new regime brings to most of us no recollection of a victory, but rather a simple thankfulness for peace. That is not an unsound view.

Both sides have now come to the ballot—to the stage of persuasion, popular expression and majority rule. The Republican defeat and the Free State victory are not conclusive and final things, and it is reasonable to be glad of the present settlement without asking ourselves which side was "right" or which "wrong." Both sides have now come to the point where the right and wrong of the vexed question can be settled without bloodshed—settled by those scraps of paper.

It is right to be thankful, without partisan feeling, at what has apparently come about; and it is reasonable to hope that another nation has come into actual being—that the once "most distressful country" is about to advance to a constructive part in the world's affairs.

Loose Tongues Unpopular

San Francisco Chronicle.

If you want to be unpopular with your fellows talk too much about women and your conquests. Genuine men do not like it. For one thing they put the braggard down as a probable liar. But first of all they resent the implied insult to womankind.

So quite frequently tar and feathers have adorned the waggon of a loose tongue about women. Feathers and tar may have no essential connection with the crime, but custom has dedicated them as an effective expression of popular contempt for a blackguard. It is possible, too, that in an indirect way they may have some curative value.

Decidedly it is an unpleasant dose. Few would care to have it repeated. But no man who thinks speaks and acts from a clean mind need fear.

Editorial Shorts

The people of Pomona have voted \$75,000 to take over the Los Angeles County Fair grounds and buildings. This means that the people of that city are solidly behind their fair. The results will be beneficial to other fairs in Southern California. The more there are the better it will be for other fairs. Each good one helps to bring exhibits and improvements to the others.—Riverside Enterprise.

In Alaska they get oil from sharks' livers, but you never get oil from a shark's oil-well.—Houston Press.



Prosperity Sweeps the Land

San Bernardino Sun

Few sections of the country seem to be neglected by the revival of business that has reached almost every corner of the United States. Recent information had reported every industrial district blessed, the agricultural sections improving, and only the inter-mountain country which centers about Utah, complaining that prosperity lags in its distribution of its gifts.

Business on the Pacific Coast in March reached record proportions, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. Labor is fully employed and wages are advancing in all industries. Retail trade is 20 per cent ahead of last year. Individual deposits in banks are 26 per cent greater than a year ago and are considerably above the peak of deposits in the fall of 1920.

Jumping across the continent to New England, one learns from the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston that "net sales in leading Boston stores were larger than in March, 1920, when the commodity prices were higher than at present." The report shows that this condition prevails throughout New England and is undoubtedly a reflection of the vastly improved industrial conditions and numerous wage increases which have been made throughout New England.

Minneapolis reports sales of farm implements and equipment throughout the Northwest this spring have been 75 per cent greater than a year ago. The J. I. Case company, of Racine, Wis., the largest manufacturers of threshing machines in the world, reports sales this year of 50 per cent ahead of last year. Kitchen cabinet factories in Indiana are working full time and have made an increase of 10 per cent in wages. According to the Illinois employment agencies, there are 100 jobs offered in that state now with only 85 job hunters. One year ago there were 141 job hunters registered for every 100 jobs. In 1921 there were 216 job hunters registered for every 100 jobs. Over 35,000 men and women working in the clothing industry in Chicago have been given an increase of from 10 to 16 per cent.

At the same time this was announced, the news came from Rochester, New York, that more than 13,000 clothing workers there received an increase of from 5 to 10 per cent. Those workers receiving less than \$40 a week received 10 per cent increase and those receiving more than \$40 received a 5 per cent increase.

Approximately 22,000 miners in the Lake Superior iron mining district have been given an increase of 10 per cent. The new wage scale for common labor in the mines of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota is now \$4.20 a day.

Four great railroads with headquarters in certain classes of their employees—the Santa Fe, which advanced wages of 20,000 maintenance of way and railroad shop employees from a minimum of 1 cent an hour to a maximum of \$8 a month; the Great Northern which increased the wages of 10,000 maintenance of way men from \$5.84 to \$10 a month; the Chicago and Alton, which increased its maintenance of way men from \$3.40 to \$10 a month; the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway, which increased its shop men 2 and 3 cents an hour. All these advances were effective either the first or the fifteenth of May.

The conditions of State banks in Kansas, according to a quarterly statement issued by the state banking department, reflects increased prosperity among the farmers, as during the period from December last to March 17, there was a gain of \$6,000,000 of deposits in those banks.

Reports of 260 life insurance companies, covering the year ending December 31, show that it was the largest year in the history of life insurance business.

One reflection of the nation's prosperity is given in the production and sale of shoes. More than 95,000,000 pairs of foot-wear were produced during the first three months of this year, an increase of 20.6 per cent over the quantity manufactured during the corresponding period last year.

The U. S. Shipping Board announced an increase in the wages of all seamen employed by the board. The advance became effective May 4 and puts into effect increases from 12 to 20 per cent.

American industry is described as "more flourishing than at any time probably in the last decade." In the annual industry survey of the National Association of Manufacturers. The survey was made public by John E. Edgerton, president of the association, at the opening of its annual convention.

Including a tabulation of 52,000 answers covering all the basic industries, the report shows a 40 per cent increase in production over last year, with consumption keeping pace or ahead of production, and a stand by the manufacturers "to prevent any unreasonable increase in consumers' prices," despite steady increases in the cost of labor, with the demand for labor becoming acute.

Time to Smile

THE FADING VOICE.

"Bredren," said the negro preacher earnestly, "in some folks de still, small voice ob conscience keeps a-gettin' stiller and smaller, until at last it'd sure had to learn de deaf and dumb langwidge ter attract dair attention."—From the Boston Transcript.

A WAY.

"Jimmy, I want you to help me make Tom jealous—awfully, wildly jealous."

"Righto! Let's get married!"—London Mail.

SUCH IS LOVE

Brown was making a visit to a girl who lived in the country, and they were walking through the fields when they noticed a cow and a calf rubbing noses in bovine love. He spoke up: "The sight of that makes me want to do the same thing."

"Go ahead," she replied, "it's father's cow."—The Ghost.

His Master's Voice

Some Odds and Ends

VALUABLE

The most valuable book in the world is a first edition of Virgil in the Princeton University library, claims George M. Peck, expert on rare volumes. This copy of Virgil was printed in Rome in 1469.

Peck is a Princeton employee, so his viewpoint is natural. But to our way of thinking, the most valuable book in the world is any copy of the Bible. It's still the best seller.

Among the books you own, which would you pawn last?

BLIND

America has 5000 fewer blind than it had 10 years ago. This is due, first to safety-first campaigns, second to improved attention to the eyes of new-born babies.

On the other hand, the nation's eyesight is getting weaker. You have noticed the increasing number wearing spectacles. We gain one one side and lose on the other. Such is life in our age of World Vaudeville.

INEXORABLE

By cross-breeding, black insects are produced from striped insects in laboratories at Columbia University.

But within two or three generations the stripes invariably return.

The laws of nature are inexorable. Temporarily we can make them perform our bidding, but the reaction is inevitable. When we have national or personal problems, the quickest way to get at the truth is to seek the natural law that is being violated. The trouble nearly always results from violating natural law.

DIRECT

A court appeal reveals that while a jury in Detroit was arguing for hours about whether a certain kind of packing box would burn, a reporter gratified his curiosity and settled the question instantly by applying a lighted match. Yes, it burned.

There is always a swift and direct way of doing things. Too bad, our laws are not written and administered and our government handled by horse-sense individuals like the young Detroit reporter.

CHANGED

The oldest reporter in the United States (Thomas L. Haskell, 80, of Portland, Me.) tells this story:

"When I started as a newsboy, the editor wanted to pay me 50 cents a week, but I held out for 75. After a week of haggling, we compromised on 65 cents."

Such wages seem impossible except to grandpas with good memories. We get more money now, but cost of living takes it away, same as in the old days. Are we better off? Yes. We all have a higher standard of living than the generation of Haskell's youth. That is, we work less, have more conveniences, luxuries and amusements. But we're not happier, maybe not as happy.

PERFUMES

Napoleon before and after battles bathed his head and shoulders in perfume. Dr. Mason writes in a recent Mentor Magazine.

He used perfume as a substitute for a bath.

HEADACHE

Uncle Sam's bookkeepers are auditing 3,000,000 income tax returns a year. They are about 2,500,000 behind the game. A newspaperman figures out that it will take 50 years to catch up. Taxpayers would be saved millions if the income tax laws were simplified. The lawyer-politicians

who make the laws may say it's impossible, but the Ten Commandments—basis of all sensible law—contain only 319 words, including all explanatory clauses. And no amendments have been necessary.

MIRACLE

You may not believe this, but it's true. A speaker in New York is heard by a radio fan in San Francisco before he is heard by the people in his own audience at the back of the hall in New York.

This is because the audience hears by sound waves which travel only 1126 feet a second, while the radio fan has the sound brought to him by vibrations traveling 186,000 miles a second.

The difference in hearing time in this case is only a fraction of a second, but it's as uncanny as it's hard to believe.

Health Notes

SCHOOL VENTILATION

Proper ventilation in schools is imperatively needed if our children are to grow up with the health that should be theirs, according to Miss Elizabeth Ashe, supervisor of the San Francisco Neighborhood association, and nationally known as a health and social service worker. One of the greatest difficulties of school authorities, Miss Ashe told the American Child Health association, is to get builders to plan school buildings with the proper regard for ventilation.

Miss Ashe was in the east to attend as a delegate the convention of social and settlement workers in Washington. "We are pretty well along on providing adequate recreation for school children," said Miss Ashe, "but we are behind in supplying them with fresh air."

Miss Ashe, who began her social work in San Francisco as a young woman, came to New York and graduated as a nurse from the Presbyterian hospital. She has devoted her life since to the work and has been instrumental in winning reforms applicable to child health and welfare in general. Miss Ashe is interested in an outdoor health camp for children in California supervised by Dr. William Palmer Lucas, a director of the American Child Health association, and who was prominent in war work in the medical department of the army.

Delicate children from all the dispensaries in San Francisco are sent to this camp and the sun treatment is given them.

Matter of Courses

By Berton Bralcy

I'm off of pork; I'm off of beef, I'm off of all potatoes; I lunched upon a lettuce leaf, I dine on stewed tomatoes But—gee, that tenderloin looks great.

I guess I'll try it, Just put a little on my plate, It's awful hard to diet.

Fritters I really shouldn't touch, Still one or two won't harm me, Scalloped potatoes—they have such

Ability to charm me, That maybe I'll try just a few; They're fine, I can't deny it, They're fattening, I know, but who Can stand a rigid diet?

Ice cream and coffee—no, ah no, I mustn't, well—I shouldn't; Still as you seem to urge me so, I'll take some—gosh, who wouldn't?

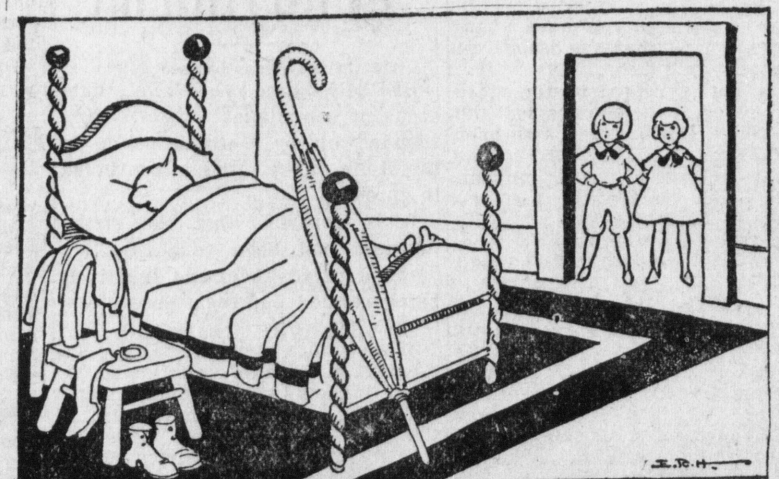
In fact, with no more ifs and buts, Though doctors may deary it, I'll go the route from soup to nuts; Tomorrow I will diet.

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ADVENTURES OF THE TWINS

Olive Roberts Barton

NO. 21—A REGULAR POURDOWN



The tattle-patch and the sas-patch garden and the posy garden were all drying up.

The little Ragdies had carried water and carried water, but it all seemed to be of no use.

Old Mister Sun was getting so hot and so thirsty that he was drinking up all the water the Ragdies and the little fairy folk could bring from the creek.

"I'm sure I don't know what to do next," panted poor little Mister Tatters as he set down an empty bucket. "It's like pouring water into the kitchen stove. Ship! Ship! Oh, Nick!" cried Nancy. "We haven't had one for a month."

"I think Mister Sprinkle Blow has gone to sleep up in the sky," declared Nick. "He usually has a lot of rain barrels full of rain. All he has to do is roll them out on a cloud and turn the spigot."

"Oh, Nick!" cried Nancy. "We have our magic shoes. Let's go up to Bluster Gust Land and see what is wrong."

"Oh, will you?" said little Mister

Tatters gratefully. "I'd be ever so much obliged."

"We'd all be ever so much obliged," added Rag Tag. "Our backs are nearly broken carrying water."

So the Twins wished, and quick as two twinks they were carried up and up through the air to Bluster Gust Land. They soon found Mister Sprinkle Blow's house and knocked loudly on the door. No answer.

Nancy tried the knob. It turned, so they went in.

And there was Mister Sprinkle Blow sound asleep.

"Oh, my! My goodness!" he exclaimed when he heard the dreadful state of affairs. "I ought to be ashamed of myself. Here, Nancy. Here, Nick. Help me roll out this barrel marked 'Regular Pourdowns,' will you? Thank you. Now I'll turn the spigot."

Down on the earth the Ragdies were doing a dance. "That's a fine rain," they cried.

(To Be Continued)

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